

# **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

**Environmental Protection Division • Watershed Protection Branch**  
**2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr • Suite 1152 East • Atlanta • Georgia 30334**  
(404) 463-1511; Fax (404) 651-8455  
Judson H. Turner, Director

Mr. Herbert L. Wade  
2161 McCormick Highway  
Lincolnton, GA 30817

JAN 2 1 2016

Re: Request for Stream Buffer Variance under  
Provisions of O.C.G.A. 12-7-6(b)(15)  
GDOT Project  
PI 0010413  
State Route 43/US 378 Bridge Replacement over  
Soap Creek  
Lincoln County

Dear Mr. Wade:

Thank you for your letter of December 2, 2015 regarding the above referenced stream buffer variance request. We appreciate you making us aware of your concerns.

After receiving your comments we forwarded them to the variance applicant and requested that they consider them and provide a response. We have reviewed the applicant's response (enclosed) and are satisfied that your concerns have been adequately addressed without the need for any changes to the variance as proposed. Because the applicant has met all applicable requirements, the requested variance has been granted. A copy of the Director's letter granting the variance is enclosed.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your concerns with us; we appreciate your commitment to helping us protect our state's water resources. If you have any questions, please contact William Smith, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Unit, at (404) 651-8553.

Sincerely,



Glen Behrend, P.E.  
Program Manager  
NonPoint Source Program

GB:ws

Enclosure

## Smith, Will

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**From:** Schmidt, Christina <cschmidt@dot.ga.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2015 11:15 AM  
**To:** Smith, Will  
**Cc:** Chamblin, Douglas  
**Subject:** RE: EPD Public Comment on BV - PI 0010413 Lincoln County

Will,

Thank you for forwarding the comment provided by Herbert L. Wade concerning PI 0010413. GDOT will attempt to minimize construction times as much as is feasible.

Thanks,

**Christina Schmidt, Environmental Scheduler**

Georgia Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Services  
600 W. Peachtree Street, 16th Floor  
Atlanta, GA 30308  
Ph: (404) 631-1593  
Fax: (404) 631-1916  
[cschmidt@dot.ga.gov](mailto:cschmidt@dot.ga.gov)

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**From:** Smith, Will [<mailto:Will.Smith@dnr.ga.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 16, 2015 10:47 AM  
**To:** Chamblin, Douglas; Schmidt, Christina  
**Subject:** EPD Public Comment on BV - PI 0010413 Lincoln County

Please respond to the comment by Herbert L. Wade concerning PI 0010413 Lincoln County. Wade is requesting that the time for construction is minimized.

I will print the response to the comment and include it in the buffer variance file.

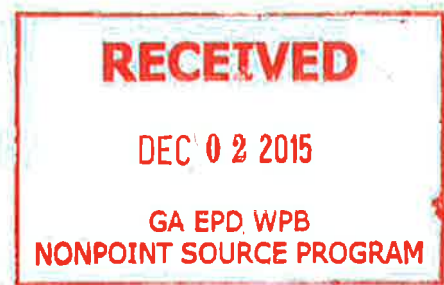
**William Smith**

Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
Watershed Protection Branch  
Erosion and Sedimentation Control Unit  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SW, Suite 1462  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
(404) 651-8553

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Traffic fatalities are on the rise since the beginning of 2015 and Georgia could see the first increase in nine years! Many of these fatalities are the result of distracted driving. DriveAlert ArriveAlive implores motorists to drive responsibly. 1—buckle up; 2—stay off the phone/no texting; and 3—drive alert. Visit [www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA](http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA). #ArriveAliveGA

November 25, 2015



Program Manager  
Non-Point Source Program  
Erosion and Sedimentation Control  
2 MLK, Jr. Dr. SW, Ste. 1462  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Subject: Project, State Route 43/US 378 Bridge replacement over Soap Creek

Dear Sir,

I applaud the replacement of the above subject bridge and excited to see it widen to 40 feet as it becomes a hazard when semitrailer trucks pass at the same time. Also, I highly agree that it should be raised eight feet from its present height. I am a frequent user of the Soap Creek lake area and when the lake is at full pool, most pontoon boats cannot pass safely under the bridge.

My final comment is that to please try to minimize construction time because with the bridge out, the Elijah Clark State Park is cut off from the city of Lincolnton. The park brings 250,000 visitors to the county. I understand a detour route will be available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Herbert L. Wade".

Herbert L. Wade